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# CITY PAGES

## *the Goddess of Victory*

**Maya Moore**, MINNESOTA'S GREATEST ATHLETE



## The Naked Clown Fight

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**HIDDEN TALENT:** I know every single word from the movie Dirty Dancing.

**WHAT IS YOUR ESTABLISHMENT KNOWN FOR?**

A place where the weirdos get to fit in.

**WHAT'S THE CRAZIEST THING YOU HAVE SEEN FROM  
BEHIND THE BAR?** We had a naked clown fight (hence the name of the drink).

Six naked, transgender clowns came into the bar and got rowdy when we asked them to put clothes on.

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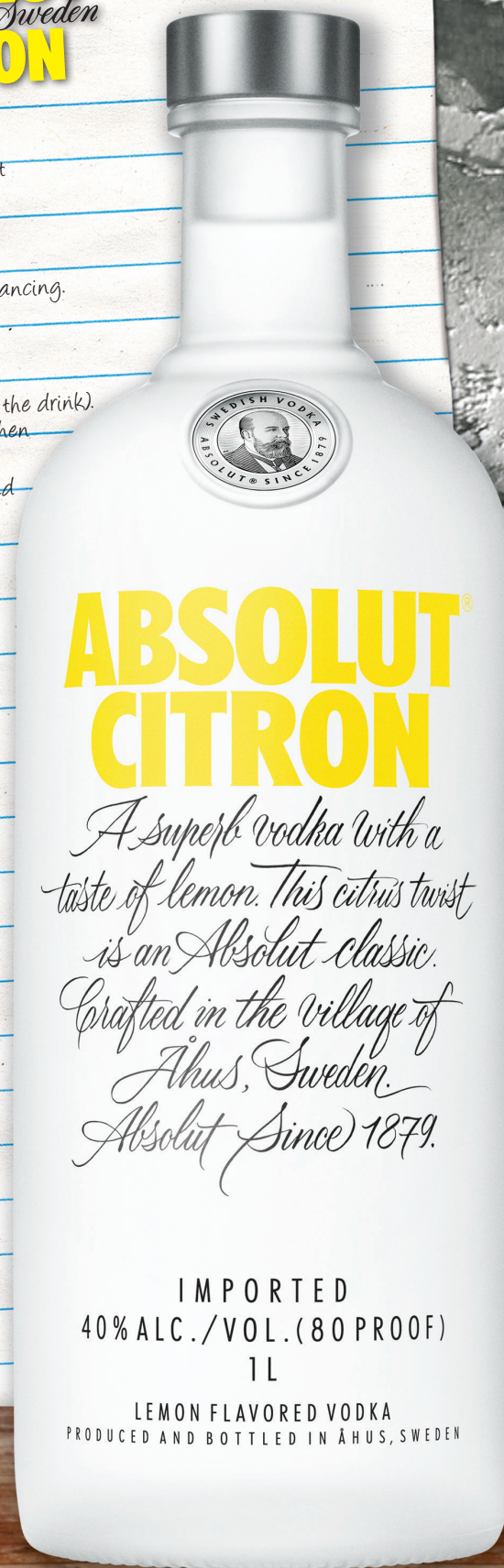
them all around the city.

**WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR NEW FOUND  
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# CITY PAGES

July 20-26, 2016  
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### Editorial

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MANAGING EDITOR Hannah Sayle  
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ARTS EDITOR Jessica Armbruster  
STAFF WRITERS Susan Du,  
Cory Zurowski  
FOOD CRITIC Mecca Bos  
COPY CHIEF Bridgette Reinsmoen  
PROOFREADER Bryan Miller  
CLUBS EDITOR Erik Thompson  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
Jerard Fagerberg, Jay Gabler,  
Sheila Regan, Jack Spencer, Youa Vang  
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS  
Galen Fletcher, Alma Guzman,  
Bruce Kluckhohn, E. Katie Holm,  
Sasha Landskov, Shelly Mosman,  
Tony Nelson, Colin Michael Simmons

### Art

ART DIRECTOR Emily Utne  
LAYOUT EDITOR Holly Hilgenberg

### Production

DESIGN MANAGER Dana Holmay  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER Tessa Luedtke

### Publisher

Mary Erickson

### Advertising

SALES DIRECTOR Leah Parkinson  
AGENCY SALES MANAGER Tony Englund  
SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Leah Carson,  
Kevin Lenhart, Nick Rupar,  
Brian Thunberg  
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Sydney Ashton,  
Trista Blodgett, Kevin Boulware,  
Jacob Johnston  
SENIOR MULTIMEDIA ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE  
Mike Yanke  
DIGITAL PRODUCT MANAGER Kibra Paulos  
AGENCY ACCOUNT MANAGER Joey Ryan  
ACCOUNT MANAGERS Monica Grogan,  
Lindsay Sipe

### Marketing and Promotions

MARKETING DIRECTOR Holly Hunt  
MARKETING COORDINATOR Lacey Richgels

### Circulation

CIRCULATION MANAGER Tom Imbertson

### Business and Administration

CUSTOMER SRV/FINANCE REP Candace Baker

### City Pages

800 1st St. N., Ste. 300, Minneapolis, MN 55401  
PHONE 612.375.1015 FAX 612.372.3737  
E-MAIL [adinfo@citypages.com](mailto:adinfo@citypages.com)  
CITY PAGES ONLINE [www.citypages.com](http://www.citypages.com)  
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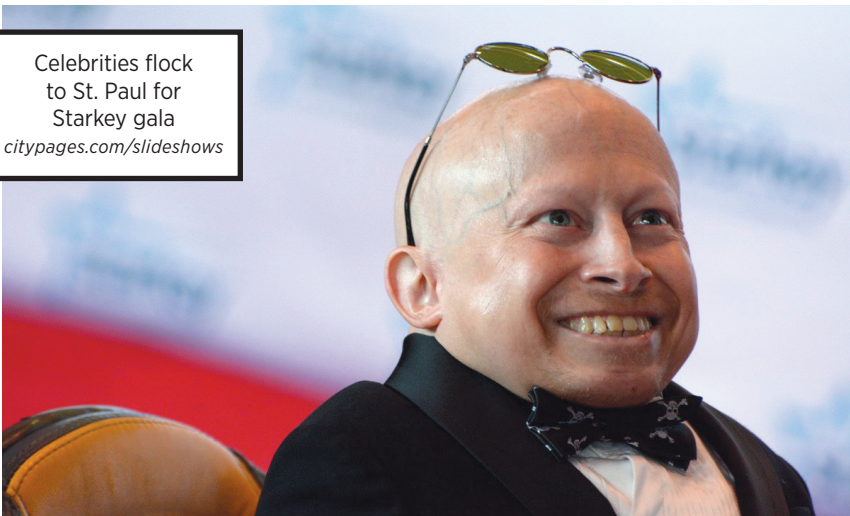
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### THE SHORTLIST



STEVEN COHEN

Celebrities flock to St. Paul for Starkey gala  
[citypages.com/slideshows](http://citypages.com/slideshows)

### THE STAT SHEET

42

Percent of the black population living in majority-minority neighborhoods, according to a recent article in the Atlantic about segregation in the Twin Cities

8.7

Multiplier by which black people are more likely than white people to be arrested for low-level offenses in Minneapolis, according to a recent article by Politico

\$46 million

Opening weekend box office for all-female *Ghostbusters* reboot

\$31 million

Amount in today's dollars that the original 1984 *Ghostbusters* grossed its opening weekend

**“Time to deny any police off-duty work for sports teams. They are employed by us to protect and serve, not decide what political statement they think is proper.”**

Bill O'Reilly (not *that* Bill O'Reilly) commenting on “Mayor Betsy Hodges calls out Bob Kroll for ‘jackass remarks’ on Minnesota Lynx” on [citypages.com](http://citypages.com).

### GOVERNMENT

**AFTER NARY A GOOD-FAITH** compromise nor a warm collegial handshake, this year's legislative session ended on May 24. But fear not! Gov. Mark Dayton and lawmakers have agreed to hold a special session in mid-August and Dayton says he's feeling confident that both sides of the aisle can come together to approve tax relief and construction borrowing packages. The deal would include tax cuts for commercial property owners, people with college debt, farmers, and developers of St. Paul's new soccer stadium. It also would set aside money for roads, bridges, and other infrastructure projects.

### POPULAR STORIES AT CITYPAGES.COM

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Those huge patriotic **‘JESUS’ BILLBOARDS**, explained [PHOTOS]

**MORELLI'S:** Cheap liquor and red sauce nirvana

**MAYOR BETSY HODGES** calls out police union leader for “jackass remarks” on Minnesota Lynx

Charges: **THREE MEN** killed a stranger, looted the body, got McDonald's



# THE END OF SEGREGATION

Lawsuit attacks segregated schools, but victory could be complicated



MONKEYBUSINESSIMAGES

Fighting segregated schools is much trickier than it was 50 years ago.

Some 60 years after the U.S. Supreme Court decided in *Brown v. Board of Education* that separate schools for black and white kids was inherently unfair, public schools in Minneapolis and St. Paul are still woefully segregated.

This claim, made by a group of seven parents and caregivers for Twin Cities students, is the focus of a class action lawsuit filed against the state of Minnesota last November.

The suit, *Cruz-Guzman v. State of Minnesota*, blames the state for depriving kids of color of a quality education by allowing segregation to persist. As of last week, upset parents are one step closer to having their day in court.

The state asked Judge Susan M. Robiner to dismiss the claims. Robiner declined last week, allowing the case to move forward.

“Judge Robiner’s ruling validates our perspective and recognizes the foundation of our claim that students in the Twin Cities face segregation in the schools and, as a result, suffer in an unfair and a sub-standard education environment,” says Dan Shulman, lead attorney on behalf of the parents and caregivers. “Beyond providing a better education for everyone, desegregation leads to a better understanding among diverse communities and can ultimately help to prevent the escalating violence our nation is experiencing.”

Much of the segregation in today’s

schools isn’t government-mandated, but voluntary. Lots of parents prefer to send their kids to cultural immersion charter schools, like those specifically set apart for Somali or Hmong students, where nearly all students belong to a single ethnic group.

And community schools, a point of pride for some inner city neighborhoods, reflect the exact demographic makeup of the city’s neighborhoods — integrated or, more often, not.

If successful, the lawsuit could pose a threat to both. Robiner also denied charter schools’ pleas for exemption from the case.

Others worried that the lawsuit’s success would force long-distance busing, especially for students of color, who would be taken from neighborhood schools and shuttled to white-majority schools.

But the plaintiffs deny their suit has anything to do with busing or money.

“Today, virtually all children in the Twin Cities are bused to schools. But they are bused to segregated schools,” Shulman said in a statement. “We will change that.... Let there be no confusion.”

“This lawsuit is committed to ensuring a high quality, appropriate, non-racist, and desegregated education for all children. It is about equality. It is about ensuring that the power structure of this society does not continue to separate children by their skin color, their family income, or their last names.” —SUSAN DU

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# Field Notes on the Uptown Bro

An anthropologist goes native among the former frat boys



**Mike Mullen**

**T**he observations contained herein were discovered in a notepad left on the table at a bar in the Lyn-Lake area of Minneapolis. According to the university that commissioned this study, their anthropologist has not been heard from again.

Summer, 2016. I have come to the city of Minneapolis, to its Uptown area, to research the rise of a subculture of young, unmarried white American males. A member of the community that I seek to classify is called a “bro.”

Economists research the new archetype extensively, for the bro has been known to bend entire markets of real estate and restaurant commerce to his will. This has taken dramatic effect in uptown Minneapolis, where condominium complexes and so-called “bro bars” have become preeminent.

In the interest of advancing the taxonomical record, I visited one of these bro-bar establishments, ordering a draft beer to blend in with the subject.

1. Almost instantly I find myself engaged in a conversation about sexual behavior, to which the bro has a curious relationship. (He refers to copulation by a number of euphemistic terms, most with violent connotation: One is said to “smash,” “smush,” or “bang” the sex partner, or to have “hit it.”) Though obsessed with the act, he expresses little interest in — indeed, is hostile to — the thought of procreation. Should this short-sighted

outlook remain, the bro could consciously drive itself into extinction in a single generation.

The announcement of a then-absent fellow bro’s impending fatherhood was treated like news of a death — both for the father’s social life and, again paradoxically, for the mother’s value as a woman. One subject named Kyle deliberately poured out a small amount of his beer and bid solemn goodbye to “Kelly’s tight ass.”

2. Polo shirts are tucked into madras shorts. Tank tops come in teal, baby blue, baby Carolina blue, baby teal, and baby salmon. Sunglasses are mandatory, though rarely appear on the face. The bro dons this accessory first by tucking it into his shirt collar, then placing it upside down on the back of his head.

One bro wears the T-shirt from his softball team, which bears a nickname on the back. The nickname is a reference to an inside joke, a “hilarious story,” I am assured. The story is about his balls.

3. The bro receives the entirety of his “news” diet from a few sources: Facebook, Snapchat, ESPN, Rotowire, the Dirty, Tinder. The bro is broadly incurious, with few subjects he wishes to explore, among them cigars, offshore tax shelters, and the statute of limitations on laws in several southeast Asian countries.

4. Citing a lack of “tail,” subject Riley leads us to another bar in the neighborhood. Someone orders a round of liquor shots. Kyle puts an arm around my

shoulder and yells, “Shots!” into my ear many times; I succumb to this pressure.

5. Each of my companions has his own distinct theory about the condition of Taylor Swift’s genitalia. Even in first-draft notes, these cannot be committed to paper.

6. The bro’s political education starts with the 9/11 terrorist attacks and ends with his first time filing income taxes. There is nothing in between. He professes a strange blend of Ayn Rand-flavored libertarianism and Christianity. As Chad explains, “If God provides that my way is easier than it was for other people, that’s because I worked harder, and God rewarded me with good luck.”

7. A bro named Ethan gives a three-minute monologue about how government welfare is “undermining the American dream.” Rough calculations from separate conversations about college tuition, the down payment on his home, and his new Lexus SUV indicate Ethan owes his parents \$134,000.

8. Shots! Shots! Shots!

9. I tell a personal story about my experience with a former research assistant. Ryun helps me to understand that she’d put me in something called “the friend zone.” We agree she was “a total bitch.” Ryun says I should still try to hit it.

10. These guys aren’t so bad. One bro has invited me back to his condo for “after-bar” festivities, and promises

there will be “mad honeys.” His name is either Todd or Tad. There might be both a Tad and a Todd.

11. Riley’s makin’ some good points, man. If you think about it, between feminism, affirmative action, and open borders, it’s guys like us who got it the worst these days. That’s why we gotta stick together. We all wonder if there’ll ever be another white man elected president.

12. Finally heard the story behind BIGUNS’ softball nickname. It is hilarious! He didn’t even know they were out!

13. Turns out Tad’s sunglasses fit perfectly on the back of my head.

14. This waitress is fine as hell and has been smilin’ at me all night. I’m playing it cool. Kyle taught me how to say vaguely mean things, just to keep her on her toes. It’s working perfectly: She seems pissed but keeps coming back over here. Ya boy’s preeetty sure he’s gonna’ be tappin’ that tonight.

And to think, I never would’ve been here, about ready to get some, if it weren’t for my new friends. No, wait. No. More than friends. Brothers. **MF**

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# The Goddess of **Victory**

By John Rosengren

**H**alftime at a Lynx game. Friday night. Late May. A guy from St. Louis Park, early 30s, walks through the Target Center concourse. He's wearing a blue Lynx jersey, No. 23, "Moore" across the back.

That's not Mary Tyler. It's Maya. Yet this young woman also has the skills to take a nothing day and suddenly make it all seem worthwhile.

The guy, Charlie McChesney, wasn't a basketball fan. Like many others in the State of Hockey, he grew up cheering for the North Stars, Gophers, and Wild.

Some buddies gave him the Maya jersey as a gag gift before he got married. Now he wears it all the time. "You have to go with a winner," he says.

He gets it. That's Maya in a word: winner.

Since she came to town in 2011, the Lynx have won three championships in five years. That's a big deal. Minnesota hadn't won a professional championship since the Twins' World Series victory in 1991 — a quarter century ago. But Los Lynx — as their fans affectionately call them — have transformed Minnesota from a land of also-rans into the home of champions.

Moore has not done it alone. She has some very good teammates in Lindsay Whalen, Seimone Augustus, Sylvia Fowles, Rebekkah Brunson, and Janal McCarville, plus an all-star coach in Cheryl Reeve. Yet good as they are, it's Maya who leads the team — in minutes played, points scored, and inspiration.

No one carries Maya's winning pedigree.

At Collins High in suburban Atlanta, she won three state championships. At the University of Connecticut, she won two national championships and led her team on a 90-game unbeaten streak. As a member of the U.S. national team, she has won five titles, including the Gold at the 2012 Olympics. Playing overseas in the winter season, she has won three league championships. Plus those three WNBA championships with the Lynx.

That's 16 championships in 12 years.

The ancient Greeks would have known her as Nike, "the goddess of victory." We have never had a winner like her in our midst.

**PREGAME**, the clock winding down on the 60-minute warm-up period, Los Lynx have headed into the locker room. Only Maya and Rebekkah Brunson remain, both



**Maya Moore**, MINNESOTA'S GREATEST ATHLETE

DAVID SHERMAN/GETTY IMAGES



still shooting, moving around the court, working the angles, seemingly locked in a duel to see who can outlast the other. With fewer than two minutes remaining, Maya finally walks off, but stops at a railing to sign autographs for a dozen kids clustered there.

Brunson has to usher her away. “Maya, we only have 20 seconds,” she calls. Maya follows at a trot, high-fiving fans along the corridor. They cheer.

Even if you just caught a glimpse of her, the moment tells you so much about Maya. For starters, she’s one of the best players in the world — on her way to becoming the greatest — but she hasn’t forgotten how she got there. She’s still working hard, still consciously trying to improve her game.

She can hardly talk to a reporter these days without mentioning efficiency, which can mean many things, she explains — minutes played, shots made, relating to teammates.

Most often, it’s taken to mean 50/40/90, shorthand for shooting, three-point, and free throw percentages. It’s the gold standard of excellence. Through the Lynx’s first 23 games of the 2016 season, Maya hit 46/38/88. That’s not just natural talent talking; that’s the result of the time she spends trying to improve her game.

When she pauses to sign autographs, it doesn’t seem like she’s fulfilling some



KYNDELL HARKNESS

Maya Moore is one of the best players in the world — on her way to becoming the greatest.

perfunctory requirement. She comes across as genuine. She’s got a game to play, but she’s taking time, chatting, smiling, signing whatever is passed her way. She cares about the fans, knows the importance of being there for them. She does not rush. Instead, she has to be urged by her teammate to get to the locker room.

You can hear the love in the cheers as she runs down this corridor, later during the player introductions, and every time the public address announcer calls her name. She is talented, charming, enthusiastic, and virtuous. As the converted hockey fan McChesney says, “What’s not to like?”

**IT STARTED WITH** a single mom trying to figure out how to cope with a three-

year-old in perpetual motion throughout a small apartment in Jefferson City, Missouri. Mom hung a mini-hoop on a door to contain the girl’s energy. Young Maya dunked for hours. Every time she slammed the ball through the hoop — wham! — she tasted joy.

Or, for those who favor genetic over environmental influences, it started when mother Kathryn Moore, who played volleyball at Occidental College, hooked up with former Rutgers star Mike Dabney, who led his school to the NCAA Final Four in 1976.

Dabney eventually married another woman and had two more daughters. He was not part of Maya’s childhood, nor does she like to talk about it. “That’s personal.”

Either way, the summer Maya turned eight years old, the seeds of her destiny took root. That’s the summer, 1997, that the WNBA started.

Maya watched games on television. The first wave of stars — Cynthia Cooper, Sheryl Swoopes, Tina Thompson — became part of her vocabulary. She sported a Houston Comets T-shirt and Swoopes’ signature shoes. She had outgrown the mini-hoop and got her first real one, the kind you anchor with sand.

Maya spent hours practicing in her driveway. She learned to angle the ball just right off the curb so it bounced an alley-oop pass

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KYNDELL HARKNESS

She awakens beauty in those who behold her. Elegance graces her game.

she could stuff. She played other sports — roller hockey, touch football, gymnastics, and soccer — but she remembers a day that year when she skipped soccer practice so she could stay home to shoot hoops.

“That was a defining moment,” she says. “I started to understand basketball was my favorite game.”

More significantly, she glimpsed the career path the WNBA blazed. “Knowing that being a basketball player was okay, as a female, it was cool, it was exciting,” she says. “You could say, ‘I want to be a pro basketball player,’ and it was possible. We had a place.”

When Maya was 11, Kathryn received a promotion at the phone company. The family of two relocated to Charlotte. But the company downsized a year later. Kathryn found a job with a bank and moved to suburban Atlanta.

Maya enrolled at Collins Hill High School in Gwinnett County. Though she became the state runner-up in the high jump, she abandoned track and field to devote herself to basketball. By then, she had won her first Georgia state basketball championship, been named to USA Today’s freshman and sophomore All-America teams, and become the most widely recruited high school prospect in the country.

During her career, Collins Hill would go a stunning 125-3. Just as impressive: Maya graduated with a perfect 4.0.

She committed to UConn, where she became a national sensation. Maya was named an All-American all four years — only the second player in history to pull that off. She won three Wade Trophy Awards as the nation’s best player. She set a gazillion school, conference, and national scoring records. She was also named an Academic All-American.

Perhaps most amazing is that she finished college with a 150-4 record, better than

anyone else, male or female, has ever done.

Which is how she became a gift to Minnesota. When the Lynx had the incredible luck to win the first pick in the 2011 WNBA draft, Maya Moore was the sweepstakes prize.

**BEFORE A GAME** against the Indiana Fever, the team that Los Lynx defeated for its last championship, Maya is all business. On the edge of the court, she rolls her hips and legs on a cylindrical tube. Her expression is locked into serious. She fixes her eyes on a distant point.

It is during this 15-minute window that reporters are allowed to ask questions, something the players don’t seem to like and only begrudgingly tolerate. Maya’s polite. But it’s obvious she does not welcome the intrusion when a reporter (me) approaches.

She’s asked if she feels pressure wearing No. 23, which will always be associated with Michael and is currently shared by LeBron James.

“If you’re not doing well, maybe.” In other words, no.

She says she writes in her journal about the dynamics on the team, her family, relationships, and has thought about writing a book. But when I ask her plans for the holiday weekend (it’s Friday night of Memorial Day weekend), she responds, “When you’re in season, you don’t think that far ahead.”

All business. Her obsession with winning has made her borderline ascetic.

“Winning is a lifestyle,” she said a week earlier at practice. She sat on a folding chair, gulping a Vega protein drink and chasing it with lemon-lime Gatorade. She cares for her body meticulously, whether it be lifting, stretching, icing, sleeping, or eating.

You’re not likely to bump into Maya at Southdale or First Avenue. She lives in a St. Louis Park apartment complex where most of the players live. Her ideal night is

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hanging with friends or family, listening to music, eating good food. She was born again when she was 12 years old, and the Lord remains foremost in her life. Her worst vice is red velvet in any form: cake, cupcakes, cheesecake.

After she's done playing basketball, she aspires to marriage and motherhood. She sees herself "taking joy in that journey. A woman doesn't have to be working outside her home to be a success."

Does she have someone in mind as that future husband? This is a source of much curiosity for her fans. But she swats away the question with a firm tone. "That's personal."

She is also hyper-competitive. Doesn't matter if it's a silly dance competition in the locker room, a power shoulder exercise in the weight room, or a game of cards at Coach Reeve's house. Maya wants to win. "She is a competitor and wants to win at all costs," says teammate Seimone Augustus.

"It's how I'm wired," Maya admits. "I like to do my best in everything I do."

Coming from someone else, someone perhaps out to one-up others or someone with an insolent swagger, this might sound obnoxious. Coming from Maya, it doesn't.

She's quick to credit coaches, teammates, and God. Her modesty seems sincere, but does not compromise her competitiveness. Missing consecutive three-point shots during warm-ups visibly pains her, and she does not smile when asked if losing in the China playoffs, where she played this past winter, was made any easier by losing to her Lynx teammate Sylvia Fowles.

Before the 2015 season, Maya signed a four-year contract. Her contract pays the WNBA maximum wage of \$109,500 a year, which is why she and half of the other WNBA players ply their trade overseas in the winter, where they can make as much as 10 times more per season than they do



WNBA players can still make 10 times their salaries in the off-season overseas.

AP PHOTO/ELAINE THOMPSON

stateside.

Music runs in Maya's veins. She will burst spontaneously into song. She's democratic in her love for music, whether alternative, country, jazz, or Christian hip-hop, so long

as it's got a "life-filled message."

That's what made special the victory party Prince threw for Los Lynx at his Paisley Park home after their fifth championship last October. She was not a Prince fan per se, but she appreciated his talent in the very personal setting. "I thought it was really cool how he said 'thank you' in

one of my love languages," she says.

**MAYA MOORE** on parquet is Martha Graham on stage, Toni Morrison on the page, Adele in stereo. She awakens beauty in those who behold her. Elegance graces her game.

Against the Fever, she freezes her defender with a nifty head and shoulder fake, which clears a lane to the basket for an easy layup. Later she spots Whalen open on the perimeter and feeds her a slick pass.

At one point, Maya dribbles through a thicket of defenders in the paint. In another moment, she leaps and stretches — looking like the Jordan profile on her size 13 shoes — to block a shot.

Her highlight comes in the second quarter when she lunges to steal the ball in the Lynx end, loses her footing, and falls to her knees. She somehow maintains control of the ball, then bounces a pass up the line to Whalen. It's an amazing display of effort, instincts, reflexes, coordination, and skills. Artistic genius.

Throughout the game, Maya's face expresses a fluid kaleidoscope of emotion, from frustration to elation. Her eyes are large, often cast upward in the beseeching look of a Renaissance saint. Her smile, though, is what stays with you. It's gripping. Warm. Powerful. An ebullient widening of her face that endures in the mind's eye.

During pregame warm-ups, she doles out complimentary hand-slaps with the frequency of a State Fair vendor. After the National Anthem, she playfully skips down a line of teammates, bumping into them with mock clumsiness, jostling away their jitters.

When Reeves calls instructions, Maya concentrates on the coach and nods. She signals directions to teammates. When a

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"Basically, there's like a Maya Moore wing in the White House," Obama joked.

Fever basket is disqualified by the shot clock, Maya bounces the ball emphatically — Yes! — and applauds her teammates' defense. She's the first to fallen teammate Renee Montgomery, who goes down hard and stays down until finally taking Maya's hand to pull her up.

And when the game ends with a Lynx victory, Maya recruits rookie Keisha Hampton to run from the opposite corner and meet at center court in a celebratory chest bump.

What we call leadership, Maya considers yet another aspect of winning. "There are basketball wins, but then there are relationship wins, with teammates, coaches, friends, competitors," she says. "There are nutrition wins, eating right. Winning might be a call that doesn't go our way and how we respond to it. There are many types of wins."

Los Lynx fans appreciate those nuances. They stand until the home team makes its first basket, boo calls they don't approve, holler encouragement, count down the last five seconds on the shot clock.

The younger ones dance during timeouts. Everyone rises to their feet to wave their arms for the free T-shirts Prowl and her cohorts toss into the crowd.

The fans don't head for the exits at the final buzzer, but linger to watch the Lynx dance at center court and hear Maya's post-game interview, shown on the Jumbotron. Maya is characteristically quick to credit her teammates and thank the fans.

Kaitlyn Berreau, a 14-year-old from Benson wearing a new No. 23 jersey — her mother, Karri, bought it at halftime to reward Kaitlyn for straight A's — likes Maya because she's not all about herself. "She's a team player," Berreau says. "She makes sure everyone gets the ball."

Amanda Carter, a middle-aged woman originally from Connecticut, wears a Lynx T-shirt with 23 on the back while prais-

ing Maya's virtues. "She's a great player, she's good in the community, she's a clean player, she's polite and kind," Carter says. "She's the face of the team, even more so than Lindsay (Whalen)."

**MAYA IS ROYALTY.** She has not yet been crowned the greatest, but she is heir apparent.

In her first year in the WNBA, she was named Rookie of the Year. By her fourth, she was the league MVP. She was the WNBA finals MVP in 2013 and the MVP of last summer's All-Star Game. She just turned 27.

Even President Obama bowed to Maya's greatness. When the Lynx visited the White House in 2014 to honor their second championship, Maya had already been there several times courtesy of her two national collegiate titles and an Olympic gold medal.

"Basically, there's like a Maya Moore wing in the White House," Obama joked. "When she comes, we've got all her stuff here. She's got a toothbrush."

And that was before she had won her third WNBA championship.

By the numbers, she is already the best in her league. She's off to another phenomenal start this year, named WNBA player of the month for May while leading the Lynx to a perfect 8-0 start. Through June 9, she led the league in scoring at 21 per game.

Numbers can say a lot, but it's moments that craft the legend. Consider these:

There was the night in Minneapolis, July 22, 2014, when she scored 48 points, a franchise record and second most in WNBA history. Her last point, a free throw with two seconds left in the second overtime, sealed a Lynx victory over Atlanta.

There was a 42-second stretch during last summer's All-Star Game. The clock stopped for a timeout with 2:51 remaining, Maya's team (the West) trailing by a point.

Many players phone it in during All-Star games. Not Maya. "We've got to win this!" she urged her teammates huddled

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"Her legacy will be decided on whether she can keep this team winning."

around her. "We've got to win this!"

So she did. In a span of 42 seconds, Maya scored eight unanswered points to put her team up by seven. She finished with an All-Star Game record 30 points, that MVP trophy, and — most important to her — the win.

There were those final 1.7 seconds of Game 3 in the 2015 Finals, the series even at 1-1, the game tied. The Lynx called timeout.

Reeve picked — who else? — Maya to take the final shot. Whalen inbounded the ball to Maya, who faked. Her defender bought it, stumbling off-balance. Maya slid to her right, dribbled once, then jumped from behind the three-point line. She released the ball with 0.4 seconds left. Her shot sailed smoothly through the hoop.

Game, set, match.

There will be more moments. Five years into the league, she is already great, and getting better.

"I've seen things this year that I didn't see last year," Reeve says. "Her pick-and-roll game, her ball-handling, her passing all continue to improve. Her legacy will be decided on whether she can keep this team winning."

**GAME LONG OVER**, the fans have finally filed out of the arena. The players have some time to themselves inside the locker room. An assistant brings in post-game meals packed in Styrofoam. They sit in front of their stalls and eat hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, salads.

Maya has brought her own meal, a pasta salad she made before the game, but she's not eating yet. She's quaffing a Vega protein drink and is eyeing Rebekkah Brunson's pizza. Brunson offers her a slice. Maya declines with characteristic discipline: "It looks delicious, but I'm going to live through you."

A trainer wraps a bag of ice to each ankle. Maya's toenails are painted a light shade of pink. "I was born with big toes," Maya jokes. "It's one of my greatest strengths. Gives me that last little spring on my jumps."

She's finally able to ease up on the intensity. She left it on the floor, the win's in the books, but her work's still not done. She organizes a Memorial Day get-together for the team. There's also the media to deal with, a half dozen reporters who will soon descend upon her, TV cameras and microphones in her face.

And there's more ice. The trainer lashes bags to her knees, to her lower back and abdomen. She has no injuries, just the attendant aches that comes with playing at this level, which takes its toll.

Athletes age faster than the rest of us, their bodies worn down by their mid-thirties. The ice is an effort to delay that deterioration. It's another part of the routine, another moment that factors into her greatness.

"Winning is not always things people can see," she says.

She understands how legacies are constructed. A champion wins the last game.

**IF THEY EVER PUT** a statue of Maya on Nicollet Mall, I hope it captures something like this moment:

After the game, once Maya has danced at center court with teammates and a few lucky kids, she is heading off the floor. A little girl will not let her go.

The young fan, maybe three years old, bounds after Maya, jumping with innocent delight. Maya stops, turns. The champion has something left to give.

Maya smiles her bright, beautiful smile and shimmies her shoulders playfully. The girl is mesmerized, ecstatic. It is just the two of them in the arena, immersed in this joyful moment — with the promise of many more. **CP**



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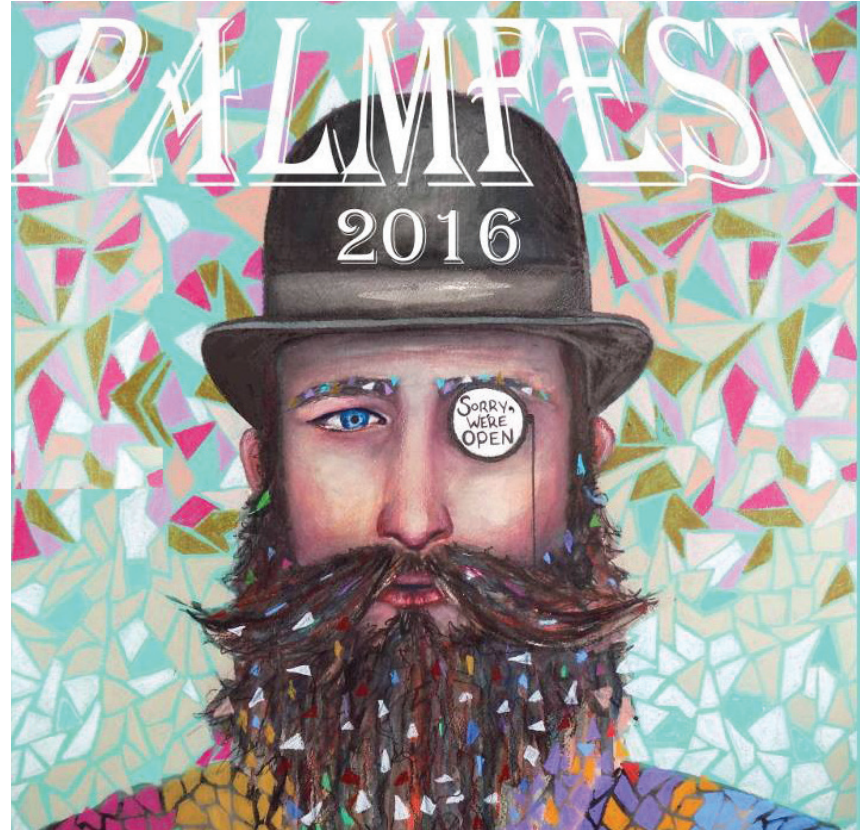
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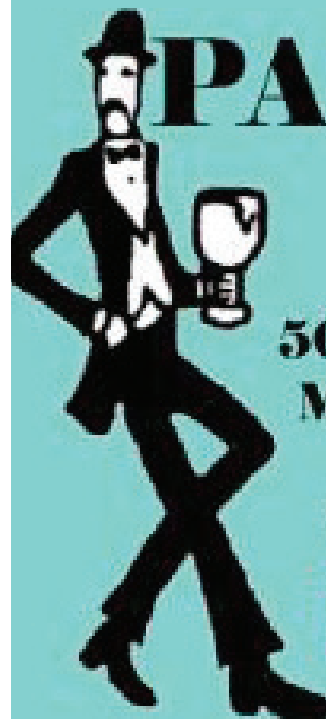
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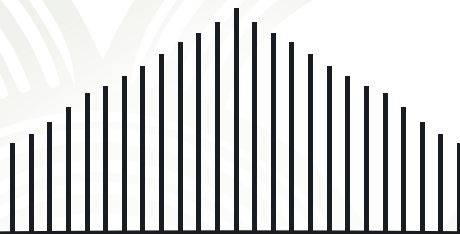
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# PIE IN THE SKY

After a promising start, Ox Cart Ale House has lost its way



Chicken wings and other party foods dominate the menu.

ALMA GUZMAN

BY MECCA BOS

**T**he trouble with restaurants is that they often do not remain the same animal.

Day after day, month after month, they morph, evolve, and sometimes regress. Consistency is key, if not also the most difficult point to nail. It's why McDonald's is such a success. The pinnacle of fast food may flag in some areas, but it has consistency down to a literal science.

Early visits to Ox Cart had us pegging it as the perfect intersection of pre- and post-game repast (housemade sausages, fancy burgers, and wings) and forward-thinking cooking for the neighborhood (sweetbreads, oxtail soup, roasted game hen). But now that CHS Field is in full

swing for the season, it seems the latter has been all but sacrificed for the former.

When it opened a year ago, Ox Cart hit all the right notes for the 'hood. It offered scratch-made pub fare that didn't aim too high or too low, in a space that also struck a similar balance — TVs for those who wanted to see them, floor-to-ceiling windows for sidewalk-gazers, plush booths, impressive service.

But that was when the planned rooftop bar was still only a plan, and not a complete second restaurant with a full second kitchen and outdoor dining room. The result is that the original restaurant is buckling under the overwhelming rooftop business, and those of us who might come to dine on the progressive pub fare that was once the restaurant's calling card are

pretty much out of luck.

As the only rooftop in downtown St. Paul, overlooking CHS stadium and Lowertown, Ox Cart's upper deck is its own calling card. If all you require are a view and a drink and perhaps a mindless bite, then you'll be as happy as everyone else seems to be — the place can get as crowded as standing-room-only. With all the beers you've come to know and like on tap, plus shuffleboard, plus the views, it's an instant party, if that's what you're after.

And when it's time for some party food, remain on the safe side and you might not be disappointed. The house-made sausages on puffy, luxurious toasted buns are best bets. Smoked cheese bratwurst are cheddar wieners that grew up, infused with irresistible rivulets of liquid cheese,

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and finished with kraut and beer mustard. The Coney Island is a decent rendition of the old classic, with rich beef chili, handfuls of shredded cheddar, and pretty red rings of Fresno chili. But what should have been little crowning glories of potato crisps were stale.

More ambitious efforts backslide further. Shrimp ceviche was watery and under-seasoned; a fried chicken sandwich with spicy aioli, dill pickles, and a milk bun would have been fine had the chicken not spent way too much time in the deep



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The Coney Island is a safe bet.

ALMA GUZMAN

fryer; and the fresh-sounding spinach-pea-mint risotto was a gloppy and oily mess. Ox Tail Soup, a stew that makes luxury out of off-cuts (so long as the imperative of low-and-slow cooking is carried out) was weak, watery, and wan.

These turns of events are especially depressing because the talents of Ox Cart's executive chef, Andy Lilja, are being squandered on the likes of buffalo chicken wings and cheese curds with spiced honey. Lilja is an accomplished butcher in addition to his culinary chops, with impressive Italian cooking experience honed at Lilydale's great but under-sung Osteria I Nonni, and the late Il Vesco Vino, as well as a couple of years at nearby Heartland. The guy can cook. But at the Ox Cart of the moment, it's tough to notice.

With the current local and national culinary talent shortage, it's almost reckless to open what amounts to a second restaurant on the premises of the first. Most restaurants are lucky to fully staff one kitchen, much less two or more. I recently spoke to a restaurateur who has closed some of his restaurants just to staff others. He has also postponed re-opening an old favorite restaurant; there just isn't enough help.

When a place grows too quickly and spreads its staff too thin, we begin to see consistency issues. We can't say for sure that is what's afoot at Ox Cart, but the shortfalls feel familiar. And even with his strong culinary leadership, Lilja is only one man.

Front-of-house staffing is an issue here, too. While servers are friendly and admirably swift considering the

circumstances, you'll seat yourself in the dining room, wait long minutes for acknowledgement, and generally feel the lonesome emptiness of a short-staffed room stretched way too thin.

Even the mixology tastes hollow. The off-balance flatness of cocktails made in haste had us pushing drinks aside in favor of glasses of wine — which, by the way, you'll pay a premium for on the roof.

We noticed that a glass of Sauvignon Blanc was priced \$2 more upstairs than it was in the dining room.

The middling food and high prices don't seem to be offending the throngs crowding the restaurant-in-the-sky. And while they're slinging standard renditions of burgers and

wings with head-spinning speed, neither of those dishes could possibly justify their \$15 price points — even if the Saints happen to be hitting a home run as you dip your fries. (On a high note, Ox Cart does wonderful things with hand-cut fries if you push aside the truly unfortunate curry ketchup.)

So, what price is a pretty downtown view? About \$50 (post gratuity) for one round of drinks, a half-dozen chicken wings, and a pickle plate. Also note that to maximize seating capacity, there is a significant swath of the roof that offers little in the way of views other than the oft-swinging kitchen doors.

Compare this experience to the growing number of excellent eateries in Lowertown (Big River Pizza, Saint Dinette, Dark Horse, etc). Their dining rooms may be planted firmly on the ground, but so are their aspirations, their value, and their consistency. **CF**

## What price a pretty downtown view?

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**Karizma**  
**DEATHDANCE**  
**Murder Shoes**  
**Totally Awesome Summer**

Local Showcase hosted by:  
**Barb Abney**

FOR MORE INFO CHECK OUT [GO963MN.COM](http://GO963MN.COM)

**FRI. JULY 29**  
 \$10 / 7PM DOORS / 18+



**DANNY BROWN**

**THE EXHIBITION**

**2016**

**MAXO KREAM** WITH **ZELOPERZ**

**FIRST AVENUE . 9/25/16** \$25.50/\$28  
 7:30PM/18+



*Kishi Bashi*

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2016**  
**FIRST AVENUE**  
 \$17/\$20 · 7PM DOORS · 18+



**FIRST AVENUE**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2016**  
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**YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND**

WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
**PERT NEAR SANDSTONE**



**FIRST AVENUE**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2016**  
 \$22 - 8PM DOORS - 18+

**LUCERO**

OCTOBER 2016



**Rebelution**

*Falling Into Place Tour*

with Special Guests  
**HIRIE**

**First Avenue**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2016**  
 \$22.50/\$25 · 8PM DOORS · 18+

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# A LIST

**FRIDAY** Amber Preston at Joke Joint **P. 25**

**SATURDAY** U.S. Bank Stadium opens its doors **P. 26**

**TUESDAY** Dean Edwards comes to Acme **P. 27**

## WEDNESDAY 7/20

### COMEDY

#### ARJ BARKER

ACME COMEDY CO.

As an expatriate living in Australia, Arj Barker has an unusual view of our coming presidential campaign. "I do some stuff about the election," he says, "but I'm not trying to be divisive. I'm trying to make it funny. It does seem like nobody is thrilled with the choices." Folks in Australia, he notes, are surprised that so many people here are taking Trump seriously. "He's pretty famous there and people know him," he says. "They don't know a ton about him, but they are aware of him." On stage, Barker still mostly spends time talking about what's going on in his life. Most of his summer has been spent featuring for Flight of the Conchords, but audiences here will get to see him headline at Acme. When he's not performing, he's developing a TV show with his writing partner. They're hoping to get it on a platform like Netflix or Hulu. "That way you can watch it anywhere. We want it to have a universal feel." Just like his standup. 18+. \$15-\$18. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393.

**Through Saturday** —P.F. WILSON

### FESTIVAL

#### MINNEAPOLIS AQUATENNIAL

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Last year, the Minneapolis Aquatennial went from 10 to four days. That length of time seems to be working, as the citywide celebration returns this year with a similar format. Though the happening is shorter, the beloved events associated with it remain. There's Wednesday night's Torchlight Parade along Hennepin Avenue downtown, with family fun in Loring Park preceding it. There are sporting events such as tennis championships and bike races planned, and the Twin Cities River Rat water ski shows can be seen from West River Road Thursday and Friday. The festival concludes Saturday with Carifest, which showcases Caribbean

culture, and the giant fireworks show along West River Parkway that evening. For more information and a complete schedule of events, check [www.aquatennial.com](http://www.aquatennial.com). **Through Saturday** —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

### COMEDY

#### MONROE MARTIN

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

It's been a big year for comedian Monroe Martin. "I got funnier. I had a baby," he says, then laughs, "No, I didn't have a baby, I'm just joking." He did make appearances on *The Jim Gaffigan Show*, *The Tonight Show*, and TruTV's *Comedy Knockout*. "I'm still talking about my life and all the things that are happening to me," he says from his home in New York City. "I talk about getting older and all the experiences I'm going through. I did have a pregnancy scare last year and I talk about that." Martin's big break came when he became a contestant on *Last Comic Standing* in 2015. While many of the comics he competed with had families to support, Martin treated it as just a fun time. "I think that show helped me realize that comedy isn't a competition with you and somebody else," he states. "It's a competition with you and yourself. Comedy is totally subjective.... We have different perspectives. I just have to be better than the last time I was on stage." \$15-\$22. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday; 7 p.m. Sunday. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558.

**Through Sunday** —P.F. WILSON

## THURSDAY 7/23

### ART/BIKES

#### THIRD THURSDAY: BIKE NIGHT

MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART

Mia's popular annual bike party returns this week. At this event, cyclists will be invited to ride directly through the museum to the celebration. Inside and outside, revelers will find lots of fun things to do, both artsy and bike-themed. Artcrank, an annual group



LESLIE BARLOW, TWO GRANDMAS FOR TV

exhibition that pays homage to bike love, will be showcasing posters and giving some away. Looking to make some new friends? Local cycling groups like Midtown Greenway Coalition, Slow Roll Twin Cities, and Black Girls Do Bike will be on hand to chat with folks. Get inspired to DIY pimp your ride as

Artbikes cruise on by, play bike bingo, sit precariously atop an old-fashioned high-wheel bike, and shop for new gear from local retailers like One on One Bicycle Studio, Handsome Cycles, and Cherry Cycles. Food trucks will be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 ►



## THE MAINROOM

BEST CONCERT VENUE, BEST CONCERT, BEST CONCERT (TOURING), BEST CLUB DJ - City Pages 2016

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

**DOLAN TWINS**  
40U TOUR  
ALEX AIONO  
\$30/4PM/ALL AGES

FRIDAY, JULY 22

**USEFUL JENKINS**  
BIG WU FAMILY  
REUNION PRE-PARTY  
**WHITE IRON BAND**  
**KIND COUNTRY**  
\$12/\$15/7PM/18+

SATURDAY, JULY 23

**RADIO K PRESENTS**  
**KITTEN FOREVER**  
10 YEAR BIRTHDAY PARTY  
CONDOMINIUM  
CANDACE  
ROYAL BRAT  
TONY PEACHKA  
\$12/\$15/7PM/18+

FRIDAY, JULY 29

**GO 96.3 LOCAL**  
**SHOWCASE FT.**  
**COMMUNIST DAUGHTER**  
**KARIZMA**  
**DEATHDANCE**  
**MURDER SHOES**  
**TOTALLY AWESOME SUMMER**  
\$10/7PM/18+

SATURDAY, JULY 30

**GO 96.3 PRESENTS**  
**GO FEST '16**  
**FT. MIIKE SNOW**  
ROBERT DELONG  
JR JR  
DENNY  
\$25/7PM/18+

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

**FOR LOVE AND**  
**ROCK 'N' ROLL**  
MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO  
THE WOMEN OF ROCK  
\$15/\$17/8PM/18+

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

**FLIP PHONE XXL**  
**SHORT SHORTS**  
FEATURING THE BEST OF THE  
FLIP PHONE ERA 1996-2006  
\$10/\$12/9PM/18+

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

**89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS**  
**CORINNE**  
**BAILEY RAE**  
\$31/\$36 DAY OF SHOW/7:30PM/18+

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

**GO 96.3 PRESENTS**  
**BROODS**  
JARRYD JAMES  
\$22.50/6PM/ALL AGES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

**BEAT THE HEAT**  
OFFICIAL EVEN FURTHER  
PRE-PARTY  
\$15/\$20/9PM/18+

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

**CITY PAGES, ELECTRIC FETUS**  
**AND 89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENT**  
**(DON'T YOU)**  
**FORGET ABOUT ME**  
A TRANSMISSION  
TRIBUTE TO JOHN HUGHES  
AND '80S SOUNDTRACKS  
WITH DJ JAKE RUDH  
\$8/\$10/9PM/18+

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

**FIRST AVENUE, 93X**  
**AND THE GENIUS OF FUN PRESENT**  
**ONE**  
**THE ONLY TRIBUTE**  
**TO METALLICA**  
\$10/\$12/7PM/18+

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

**FIRST AVENUE AND**  
**HYDRIVE SHOWS PRESENTS**  
**BOOMBOX CARTEL**  
GRAVES  
TRUANCY  
MCDADDY  
\$16/\$20/9PM/18+

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

**GUIDED BY**  
**VOICES**  
BRONCHO  
\$25/\$30/7:30PM/18+

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

**89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS**  
**EXPLOSIONS**  
**IN THE SKY**  
LOWER DENS  
\$25/8PM/18+

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

**ERIC ANDRE**  
**LIVE!**  
\$20/7:30PM/18+

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

**TROYBOI**  
THE MANTRA TOUR  
\$17/\$20/7:30PM/18+

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

**DESCENDENTS**  
MODERN LIFE IS WAR  
\$35/7PM/18+

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

**ECHO & THE**  
**BUNNYMEN**  
\$30/7:30PM/18+

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

**89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS**  
**THE SPECIALS**  
THE FAR EAST  
\$30/8PM/18+

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

**BELLY**  
DJ JAKE RUDH  
\$25/7PM/18+

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

**THE HEAVY**  
\$18/\$20/7PM/18+

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

**PEACHES**  
\$16/7:30PM/18+

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

**THRICE**  
LA DISPUTE  
NOTHING.NOWHERE.  
\$21/\$25 DAY OF SHOW  
7PM/18+

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

**89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS**  
**DRIVE-BY**  
**TRUCKERS**  
LYDIA LOVELESS  
\$25/8PM/18+

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## ALSO COMING TO THE MAINROOM

- 9/25 **DANNY BROWN - THE EXHIBITION 2016 TOUR**  
w/ MAXO KREAM AND ZELOOPERZ 18+
- 9/27 **YOUNG THE GIANT** w/ RA RA RIOT 18+
- 9/28 **LOCAL NATIVES** w/ CHARLOTTE DAY WILSON 18+
- 9/29 **THE FAINT** w/ GANG OF FOUR 18+
- 10/01 **BEN FOLDS - AND A PIANO** 18+
- 10/05 **SHOVELS & ROPE**  
w/ MATTHEW LOGAN VASQUEZ (OF DELTA SPIRIT) 18+
- 10/06 **MARIAN HILL: ACT ONE TOUR** w/ VÉRITÉ, SHAED 18+
- 10/07 **DINOSAUR JR.** w/ STEVE GUNN & THE OUTLINERS 18+
- 10/09 **BOYCE AVENUE** BE SOMEBODY WORLD TOUR ALL AGES
- 10/10 **OPETH: SORCERESS WORLD TOUR** w/ THE SWORD 18+
- 10/11 **JACK GARRATT** 18+
- 10/12 **KISHI BASHI** 18+
- 10/21 **CLUTCH: PSYCHIC WARFARE WORLD TOUR 2016**  
w/ ZAKK SABBATH, KYNG 18+
- 10/22 **GROUPOVE - THE BIG MESS TOUR** w/ MUNA, DILLY DALLY 18+
- 10/26 & 27 **ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES** w/ DIANE COFFEE 18+
- 10/28 **YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND**  
w/ PERT NEAR SANDSTONE 18+
- 10/29 **LUCERO** 18+
- 10/30 **AN EVENING WITH PETER HOOK & THE LIGHT,**  
PERFORMING "SUBSTANCE" - JOY DIVISION &  
NEW ORDER w/ DJ JAKE RUDH (OF TRANSMISSION) 18+
- 11/02 **THE NAKED AND FAMOUS** w/ XYLØ 18+
- 11/03 **WATSKY - X INFINITY TOUR** w/ WITT LOWRY, DAYE JACK,  
CHUKWUDI HODGE ALL AGES
- 11/04 **MAJID JORDAN** ALL AGES
- 11/06 **JAI WOLF** 18+
- 11/10 **REBELUTION** w/ HIRIE 18+
- 11/12 **HORSESHOES & HAND GRENADES** w/ CABINET 18+
- 11/17 **AARON LEWIS - THE SINNER TOUR** 18+
- 11/18 **JAMES VINCENT MCMORROW** 18+
- 1/20 **THE DEVIL MAKES THREE** 18+
- 3/18 **PASSENGER** ALL AGES

## 7TH ST ENTRY

- 7/20 **RAGING FYAH** w/ DRED I DREAD 18+
- 7/21 **THE COATHANGERS** w/ L.A. WITCH, MONICA LAPLANTE 18+
- 7/22 **BEAR HANDS** w/ THE MOTH & THE FLAME 18+
- 7/23 **NAZEEM & SPENCER JOLES VIDEO RELEASE PARTY AND**  
**NAZEEM'S BIRTHDAY BASH** w/ SOPHIA ERIS (OF GRRRL PRTY),  
SAINT LARON, UNKNOWN CREATURES, MIKE THE MARTYR 18+
- 7/24 **CED LINUS** w/ WAREHOUSE EYES, DEVATA DAUN, TALL PAUL,  
KAT, DJ J CUPID 18+
- 7/25 **MRS., THE FLORISTS (EP RELEASE), WRETCH,**  
**AND NOMENCLATURES** 18+
- 7/26 **MOTHERS** w/ INVISIBLE BOY 18+
- 7/27 **ELECTRIC WESTERN - THE INFAMOUS ROCK N ROLL**  
**AND SOUL DANCE PARTY** 18+
- 7/28 **FRAEA** w/ MOON & POLLUTION, SUNNNYSIDE 18+
- 7/29 **TOYS THAT KILL** w/ SHELLSHAG, BIRTHDAY SUITS,  
GATEWAY DISTRICT, RIPPER 18+
- 7/31 **THE BURNT WAFFLES** w/ DEAD NUDE MODELS, MOONSHIE SAX 18+
- 8/01 **ESMÉ PATTERSON** w/ THE AWFUL TRUTH, M.T. FOYER 18+
- 8/02 **NEW MADRID** w/ TEENAGE MOODS 18+
- 8/03 **WILD ADRIATIC** w/ THE MODERN ERA, JACK AND THE COAX 18+
- 8/04 **BOB LOG III** w/ BLOOD BROTHER, THE KEVIN DOWLING FITNESS HOUR 18+

For show announcements, updates, set times, giveaways, and more:

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## UPCOMING SHOWS AT OTHER VENUES



**SATURDAY, JULY 23**  
FIRST AVENUE, JAM, SURLY BREWING,  
89.3 THE CURRENT, AND CITY PAGES PRESENT  
**DR. DOG**  
w/ SHAKEY GRAVES  
at SURLY BREWING FESTIVAL FIELD  
\$30/5PM/18+



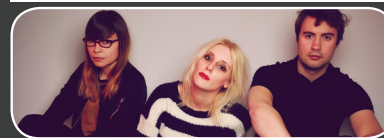
**THURSDAY, JULY 28**  
**I AM RAPAPORT:**  
**STEREO PODCAST**  
at THE CEDAR  
\$20/7PM/ALL AGES



**SUNDAY, JULY 31**  
**WYE OAK**  
w/ TUSKHA  
at the FINE LINE  
\$16/\$18/\$30 RESERVED BALCONY  
SEATING/7:30PM/18+



**FRIDAY, AUGUST 5**  
**HONNE**  
w/ JONES  
at the TRIPLE ROCK  
\$15/8PM/18+



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6**  
**WHITE LUNG**  
w/ GREYS  
at the TRIPLE ROCK  
\$12/\$14/8PM/18+



**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17**  
**BORIS PERFORMING PINK**  
w/ EARTH  
at the FINE LINE  
\$20/\$35 RESERVED BALCONY  
7:30PM/18+



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20**  
JAM, FIRST AVENUE, 89.3 THE CURRENT  
AND CITY PAGES PRESENT  
**WILCO**  
w/ KURT VILE & THE VIOLATORS  
at HISTORIC HALL'S ISLAND  
\$50/4:30PM/ALL AGES



**THURSDAY, AUGUST 25**  
**SLIGHTLY STOOPID**  
w/ SOJA, FORTUNATE YOUTH  
at the CABOOZE OUTDOOR PLAZA  
\$32.50/\$35 DAY OF SHOW/4:30PM/18+

- 9/03 **SLEIGH BELLS** at Fine Line
- 9/05 **THE PRIVATE CLUB TOUR: MADEINTYO, SALMA SLIMS,**  
**MYNAMEPHIN, NOAH WOODS, PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS** at Fine Line
- 9/06 **JENNY LEWIS - 'RABBIT FUR COAT' ANNIVERSARY TOUR**  
w/ THE WATSON TWINS at State Theatre
- 9/08 **WHITNEY** at Triple Rock
- 9/09 **XENIA RUBINOS** at Icehouse
- 9/10 **PROF OUTDOORS 3 FT. PROF** w/ HOPSIN, GRIEVES, J. PLAZA,  
DWAYNE ROLAND, WHY KHALIQ, TIHIIIIIIIP at Cabooze Outdoor Plaza
- 9/10 **BLIND PILOT** at Fine Line
- 9/10 **HASAN MINHAJ: HOMECOMING KING** at the Woman's Club
- 9/11 **BAND OF SKULLS** w/ MURDER SHOES at Fine Line
- 9/12 **TEGAN & SARA** at State Theatre
- 9/15 **WEEN** at Roy Wilkins Auditorium
- 9/16 **THE DEAR HUNTER: THE FINAL ACT TOUR**  
w/ EISLEY, GAVIN CASTLETON at Fine Line
- 9/17 **FESTIVAL PALOMINO FT. TRAMPLED BY TURTLES, THE ARCS,**  
**ANDREW BIRD, JAKE BUGG, HOUNDMOUTH, FRIGHTENED**  
**RABBIT, ELEPHANT REVIVAL, AND MORE** at Canterbury Park
- 9/17 **GOLD PANDA** w/ OPEN MIKE EAGLE at Triple Rock
- 9/18 **HIGHLY SUSPECT** at Fine Line





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- 7/20 **SPACE MONSTER / MAYFIELD (CD RELEASE) / FEED YOUR HEAD** 7:30PM
- 7/21 **COREY PALMER & LOVETRADE / HOLIDAE** w/ AARON RICE 7:30PM
- 7/22 **NEW SOUND UNDERGROUND RELEASE PARTY** w/ SOAP, MCNASTY BRASS BAND 7:30PM
- 7/23 **TUNES 'N 'TOONS BRUNCH** CLASSIC CARTOONS + DJ'S SPINNING VINYL  
10AM-3PM (NO COVER/ALL AGES)
- 7/23 **WE ARE THE WILLOWS** w/ MATTHÄUS, FATHOM LANE 8PM
- 7/24 **GUIDED BY BRUNCH: A GUIDED BY VOICES INSPIRED BRUNCH**  
FT. A GBV DJ SET BY JUSTIN FITTERMAN, A SCREENING OF 'SOME DRINKING IMPLIED',  
SPECIAL GBV GIVEAWAYS, AND MORE 10AM-3PM (NO COVER/ALL AGES)
- 7/27 **ON AN ON** w/ MARGARET, VAL SON 7:30PM
- 7/28 **JEREMY ENICK** w/ INTO IT. OVER IT. (SOLO ACOUSTIC) 7:30PM
- 7/29 **CORY BRANAN** w/ BRIAN DUNNE, JOSH TAERK 8PM
- 7/30 **TUNES 'N 'TOONS BRUNCH** CLASSIC CARTOONS + DJ'S SPINNING VINYL  
10AM-3PM (NO COVER/ALL AGES)
- 7/30 **THE BASEBALL PROJECT** w/ WOOLDRIDGE BROTHERS 8PM
- 7/31 **OUTLAW BRUNCH** FT. BOURBON COUNTY 10AM-3PM (NO COVER/ALL AGES)
- 8/02 **RICHARD BUCKNER** w/ MOLLY MAHER 7:30PM
- 8/03 **SISTER SPARROW & THE DIRTY BIRDS** w/ KOLARS 8PM
- 8/04 **THE RECORD SUMMER** w/ SPECIAL GUESTS TBA 7:30PM
- 8/05 **KYLE CRAFT** 8PM
- 8/06 **TUNES 'N 'TOONS BRUNCH** CLASSIC CARTOONS + DJ'S SPINNING VINYL  
10AM-3PM (NO COVER/ALL AGES)
- 8/06 **MATTHEW MAYFIELD** w/ LYDIA LIZA 8PM
- 8/07 **JAZZ BRUNCH** FT. JAMES BUCKLEY TRIO WITH JAVI SANTIAGO, JAMES BUCKLEY, AND JT BATES

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KITCHEN OPEN UNTIL 10PM SUN-THURS, 11PM FRI-SAT VIEW OUR FULL MENU AT [TURFCLUB.NET](http://TURFCLUB.NET)

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## A-LIST



COURTESY OF HARD WORKING MOVIES

Sara Jordenö portrays the pageantry and tribulations of Kiki subculture in a new film.

### CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

serving nosh, there will be plenty of beer and wine, and music will be provided by Warehouse Eyes and Totally Awesome Summer. A group ride will meet at Surly Brewing Company (520 Malcolm Ave. SE, Minneapolis) starting around 4 p.m., rolling out around 5:30 p.m. Later, the group will head back to Surly for the after party. Free. 6 to 9 p.m. 2400 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-870-3131. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

### FILM/LGBTQ

## CINEMA OF URGENCY: KIKI

WALKER ART CENTER

Twenty-six years ago, documentary filmmaker Jennie Livingston came out with the groundbreaking film *Paris Is Burning*, depicting the flamboyant world of New York City drag balls and offering an inside look at the queer and trans communities of color that made up the voguing scene. This year, Swedish director Sara Jordenö takes over where Livingston left off with her film *KIKI*, about a new subculture made up of queer youth involved in Kiki ballroom competitions. Jordenö's film, made in collaboration with ballroom "gatekeeper" Twiggy Pucci Garçonwhich, follows seven participants in the Kiki community over the course of four years, capturing not only the pageantry but the underlying issues of homelessness, prostitution, drug addiction, illness, and prejudice that permeate the subculture. The film is screened at the Walker Art Center as part of the Cinema of Urgency series, programmed in partnership with Full Frame Documentary Film Festival in Durham, North Carolina. Pick up free tickets in the Hennepin lobby starting at 6 p.m. Screening is at 7 p.m. 1750 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-375-7600. —SHEILA REGAN

### ART/MUSEUM

## MAEP: AUSTIN SWEARENGIN

MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART

Since receiving his BFA in sculpture from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Austin Swearengen has designed and constructed a variety of tables, benches, and other furniture, in which wood, glass, and metal become modern, usable compositions. But he's a sculptor, remember? And in this exhibition, he takes such compositions to fantastical conclusions. Space, structure, and material become exhilaratingly poetic and completely non-functional, except perhaps as a source of meditation on usefulness and art. And that's more than reason enough to check out his show. There will be an opening reception from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, July 21; and an artist's talk at 7 p.m. Thursday, September 15. 2400 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-870-3131. **Through October 30** —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

### BOOKS

## PETER GEYE

COMMON GOOD BOOKS

Lifelong Minnesotan author Peter Geye reads from his novel *Wintering* this Thursday at Common Good Books. The epic storyline covers several generations of small-town feuds, family secrets, and love affairs, in a critically acclaimed and elegantly written narrative. The book opens in November in Gunflint, Minnesota, upon the disappearance of Harry Eide, an elderly man suffering from dementia. His son, Gus, and Harry's former lover, Berit, try to piece together the motive for escape by revisiting the details of Harry's last disappearance 33 years prior. As the timeline shifts between past and present, Minnesota's brutal and breathtaking climate becomes a veritable character in the narrative. Elements of man-versus-nature, such as canoeing in





Dance, theater, and art potentially come together in Jennifer Ilse and Paul Herwig's new work.

SCOTT PAKUDAITIS

the Boundary Waters, hunting game, and fishing serve as a backdrop as father and son reconcile fears, regrets, and mortality. *Wintering* is Geyer's third novel. The Eide family was introduced in his previous novel, *The Lighthouse Road*, and the fictional family's legacy will be carried on in yet another book, *Northernmost*. Free. 7 p.m. 38 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul; 651-225-8989. —ERICA RIVERA

#### ART/GALLERY

### A THIRD SPACE: NEW WORKS BY LESLIE BARLOW

FLOW ART SPACE

Minnesota painter Leslie Barlow beautifully captures the complexity of multiculturalism in her representational portraits, on view at Flow Art Space from July 21 to August 13. This exhibition, titled "A Third Space," consists primarily of work completed as part of her MCAD MFA thesis and explores an alternative to binary thinking, especially where race is concerned. Drawing on her own experiences and mixed-race ancestry, as well as those of her friends and family, Barlow examines the multiple facets that constitute identity. Whether depicting her police officer brother in uniform or her maternal and paternal grandmothers in a riff on Frida Kahlo's *The Two Fridas*, Barlow's paintings depict somber, contemplative subjects that evoke reverence and compassion in the viewer. With a recently awarded MN State Arts Board grad, Barlow is currently working on a series of large-scale portraits of interracial families, inspired by the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Loving v. Virginia Supreme Court case that invalidated laws against interracial marriage. She also recently completed a commission of six portraits of iconic Vikings players for the new US Bank stadium. There will be an opening reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, July 21; and an artist's talk at 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 9. 308 E. Prince St., St. Paul; 612-564-3569. **Through August 13** —ERICA RIVERA

#### DANCE

### OFF-LEASH AREA: AFTERWIND

SAVAGE UMBRELLA SPACE

In this immersive piece — in which dance, theater, and art installation conflate to create a kinetic setting rife with emotion and memory — Jennifer Ilse and Paul Herwig (founders of Off-Leash Area) have created what might be their most explosive and unforgettable work to date. The couple have a remarkable talent for tapping into the zeitgeist, whether political or aesthetic, to generate work in which the horrific and the quotidian are given equal consideration. Here they are joined by performers Kaori Kenmotsu, Jesse Neumann-Peterson, and Darrius Strong. \$10-\$30 suggested donation. 8 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays. 550 Vandalia St. Studio 306, St. Paul. **Through July 31** —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

FRIDAY 7/22

#### COMEDY

### AMBER PRESTON

THE JOKE JOINT COMEDY CLUB

Though she grew up in Fargo, North Dakota, and now lives in Los Angeles, Amber Preston still considers herself a Minneapolis girl. "I lived in Minneapolis slightly longer than I did Fargo," she notes. "The formative years were in Fargo, but I moved to Minneapolis for college." And you still can't take Minnesota out of the girl, as her family continues to influence much of her set. "Maybe they're an even greater influence, because they're so far away," she says. "So to feel close to them I need to talk about them." She notes that there isn't a lot of comparing the Upper Midwest to California in her comedy. The distance, though, makes it easier for her to come up with bits about her family. "Instead of hearing the stories first hand, I get them second and third hand," she says. "I get Dad's version of what

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 ►

**Music & Dancing with Shannon & Bill**  
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CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

happened, then I get Mom's version, and I get my little sister's version, so I have three wells to draw from. And they get excited hearing about my day, and what's going on with me." \$15. 8 and 10:30 p.m. Friday; 7:30 and 9:45 p.m. Saturday. 801 Sibley Memorial Hwy., Lilydale; 651-330-9078. **Through Saturday** —P.F. WILSON

SATURDAY 7/23

## PARTY

U.S. BANK STADIUM  
OPEN HOUSE

U.S. BANK STADIUM

From start to finish, building the new Vikings stadium has been a bumpy ride, filled with environmental, funding, and ticketing controversies. Miraculously, construction finished early. This weekend, sports fans and lovers of free stuff can stop by and see what all the fuss is about. Both open house days will offer a variety of family-friendly activities, with a playground set up on the plaza and giant games of Jenga and Connect Four available to play. Check out the 3-D chalk-art installation, and enjoy live music and

DJ sets. Movies, still to be announced, will screen outdoors both evenings, and folks who stay downtown on Saturday night can enjoy Aquatennial fireworks at dusk. While the event is free, guests are requested to RSVP a time frame at [www.usbankstadium.com/event/u-s-bank-stadium-open-house](http://www.usbankstadium.com/event/u-s-bank-stadium-open-house). 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. 900 S. Fifth St., Minneapolis; 612-338-4537. Also Sunday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

## PARADE

ARTCARS +  
ARTBIKES PARADE

LAKE HARRIET

While sparkly classic cars and flashy hotrods are fun to spot on the road, there's something about an ArtCar sighting that is even more exciting. These one-of-a-kind vehicles add a bit of whimsy and DIY Americana to asphalt. This Saturday, many of the ArtCars around town will be coming together for the annual south Minneapolis parade. ArtBikes will be joining the festivities as well. There will be cars with giant tubes of lipstick, hand-painted hoods, and even a ride

## FESTIVAL

LITTLE MEKONG  
NIGHT MARKET

THE LITTLE MEKONG DISTRICT

The Little Mekong District, a business and cultural area located between Mackubin and Galtier Streets along University Avenue, gets transformed into a night market from Southeast Asia. Last year, 15,000 people attended the festival, which boasted 280 participating artists. Filled with delicious food, artisanal wares, games, activities, and both traditional and contemporary performances, this year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever. It's all put on by the Asian Economic Development Association (AEDA), which developed Little Mekong as a destination where businesses — including many Asian American-owned ones — can thrive and share culture, tradition, and activities. So come for the break-dancing and music, stay for the ping pong at this fun, family-friendly event that will satisfy your tastebuds. For more info, visit [littlemekong.com](http://littlemekong.com). Free. 5 to 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 379 University Ave. W., St. Paul. **Through Sunday** —SHEILA REGAN



COURTESY OF THE EVENT

sporting boxing gloves. They'll start their slow cruise at the Lyndale Park Rose Garden, and from there they'll ride around Lake Harriet. Bring a blanket

and a picnic to your viewing spot, or stop by Bread & Pickle at the bandshell for treats. Free. 6 p.m. 4124 Roseway Rd., Minneapolis. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

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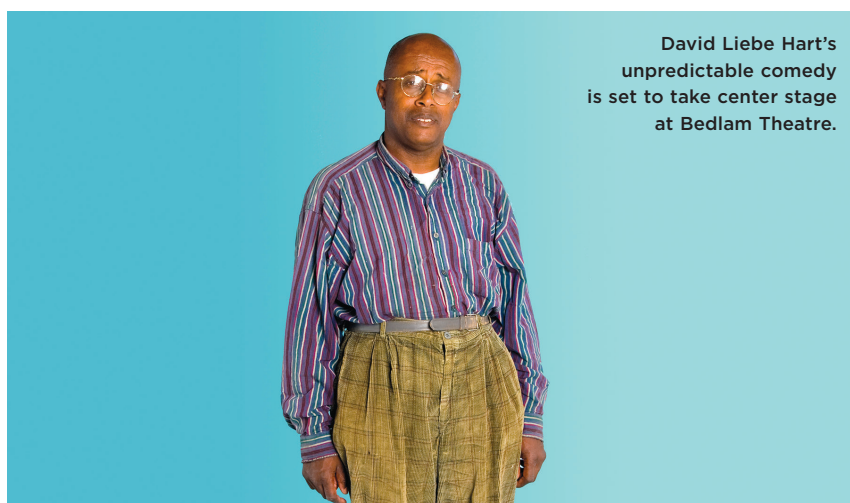
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David Liebe Hart's unpredictable comedy is set to take center stage at Bedlam Theatre.

COURTESY OF THE STANDUP

TUESDAY 7/26

# COMEDY/PERFORMANCE

## DAVID LIEBE HART

BEDLAM THEATRE LOWERTOWN

We would love to tell you what you can expect to see when David Liebe Hart performs this week at Bedlam Lowertown. There will be songs, puppets, videos, and stories, but quite frankly, there's no telling what Liebe Hart might do or say. Best known as part of *Tim & Eric's Awesome Show, Great Job!*, Liebe Hart describes himself as a musician, actor, painter, and alien abductee. His live shows are a reflection of his unique outlook, as he has been known to break off mid-performance into a detailed, confusing story involving ghosts, dreams, and trains. This week he'll be accompanied by electronic musician Jonah "Th' Mole" Mociun, adding another layer to his bizarre, hilarious multimedia extravaganza. Whether you loved him on Adult Swim, or just really want to feel like you're having a fever-dream, chances are Liebe Hart won't disappoint. \$15. 8 p.m. 213 E. Fourth St., St Paul; 651-209-0597. —PATRICK STRAIT

# COMEDY

## DEAN EDWARDS

ACME COMEDY CO.

Starting Tuesday, Dean Edwards, a zealous comedian from the Bronx, spends his birthday week performing standup at Acme Comedy Co. His clean but unforgiving act focuses primarily on pop culture ("Don't it seem like all of Rihanna's songs are just a bunch of vowels strung together?") and relationships. Edwards began pursuing comedy professionally over two decades ago after juggling community college classes ("Let's be real: The only reason they call it an Associate's is because you're associated with college, not because it counts") and a six-year term in the U.S. Army Reserves. Following a breakthrough appearance on *DEF*

*Comedy Jam*, he became omnipresent on the television and film circuit, racking up laughs on *Saturday Night Live*, *Last Call with Carson Daly*, and *Guy Code*. The Prince fan also rants every Monday about "The dos, the don'ts, the what's been done" on his *Futhamuckin'* podcast. \$15. 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis, 612-338-6393, www.acmecomedycorpany.com. **Through Saturday, July 30** —ERICA RIVERA

# TALK

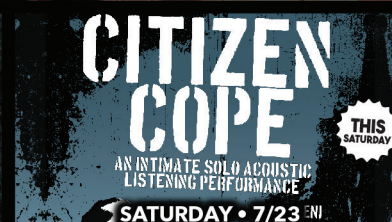
## MALALA YOUSAFZAI

TARGET CENTER

Who would have thought that the face of resistance to the brutality of fundamentalist rule could belong to an unassuming Pakistani schoolgirl? Malala Yousafzai has come to represent such courage following her attempted murder by Taliban enforcers in 2012. She was a 15-year-old girl who not only refused to cease her education but encouraged other girls to exercise the same defiance, and the Taliban intended to make a horrifying example of Yousafzai when they shot her in the head. She made a remarkable recovery, however, and rather than being terrorized into silence, spoke louder than ever. For her unwavering conviction to the cause of education and empowerment, Yousafzai became, at age 17, the youngest ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Yousafzai's inspiring story, recounted in her autobiography, *I Am Malala*, will be expounded upon in a one-night speaking engagement at Target Center. Audiences can expect to learn more of Yousafzai's past, present, and future as she continues her campaign to motivate young women throughout the world. Yousafzai will also take part in a Q&A to lend more perspective to both her personal story and the experiences of those living under fanatical dominion. \$33-\$153. 7:30 p.m. 600 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-673-0900. —BRAD RICHASON

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9/29 DARK STAR ORCHESTRA  
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10/18 CUTE IS WHAT WE AIM FOR  
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- 7/29-30 **Davina & The Vagabonds**  
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- 8/1-2 **Marc & Ted Broussard Acoustic Duo**  
Bayou Acoustic Soul
- 8/3 **Sasha Masakowski**  
Modern Jazz Vocals  
Event 8/3: Lochlomond Whiskey Dinner
- 8/4 **Bettye Lavette**  
Soul R&B Royalty
- 8/5-6 **DakhaBrakha**  
Ukrainian Punk-Folk Circus Rock
- 8/7 **Sierra Hull**  
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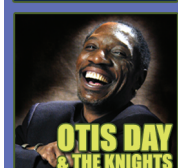
Fri 7/22 Jaedyn James & The Hunger \$10  
Fri 7/29 Nick Jordan \$5



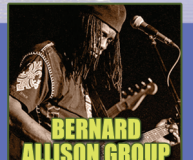
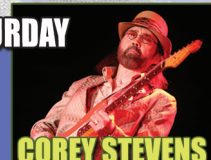
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# UNDERCOVER BOB

Bryan Cranston should have infiltrated a better movie



Bryan Cranston and John Leguizamo

LIAM DANIEL/BROAD GREEN PICTURES

BY MICHAEL NORDINE

Now that he's done breaking bad, the only thing left for Bryan Cranston to do is make good on the transition from television to film. *Trumbo* netted him an Oscar nod and *Godzilla* saw him hold his own against skyscraping monsters, but he's yet to find his silver-screen Heisenberg. That search continues in *The Infiltrator*, with Cranston playing real-life U.S. Customs agent Bob Mazur as he goes undercover with the sort of baddies he used to dominate on *Breaking Bad*.

"Don't be Bobby Loser," his aunt warns him early on. "Be Bobby Somebody." He's just completed a successful, semi-high-stakes operation and used his barbecue to torch the fake IDs that came with his alter ego. Mazur plays board games with his kids and enjoys his domestic revelry,

just as he appreciates what little time he's able to spend with the missus. She's one of those boilerplate movie wives, well acted by Juliet Aubrey but given little to do beyond worry after her husband and helplessly observe as he transforms into a different person than the one she married.

There's a restlessness in Bob, an itch that needs scratching — whether he'll cop to it or not. And so he takes on a dangerous, high-profile undercover mission, the kind characters in movies always insist is *the last one*. It's a money-laundering operation based in Florida with the end goal of catching Pablo Escobar and his cohort with their hands in the cookie jar. If he were played by anyone else — or if *The Infiltrator* weren't based on a book by a dude who had to be alive in order to write it — you'd probably expect him to end up with a sign reading, "Hola, Customs!" on his head.

Cranston explored where this kind of ambition can lead in *Breaking Bad*, and here it falls on him to show how the other side of the law toes the line. He fares best when playing off of John Leguizamo as Mazur's partner, the sort of agent who enjoys the exploits of undercover life a bit more than he probably should — the danger, the parties, the excitement.

It's standard operating procedure from there, with Mazur trying (and, increasingly, failing) to compartmentalize his criminal persona as far removed from his law-abiding life as possible. When the two poles begin to meet somewhere in the middle and merge, his marriage and sense of self are called into question.

Only in the interplay between Bob and his primary mark (Benjamin Bratt as one of Escobar's high-ranking go-betweens) do we really feel this. Whether by design or not, *The Infiltrator* is most notable for

## THE INFILTRATOR

directed by Brad Furman  
now playing, area theaters

the way it draws your sympathy away from Cranston and toward Bratt — he's a drug-war profiteer, sure, but there's little pleasure to be had from watching him get duped by a man he welcomes into his life as a close personal friend. Bob knows this, and now he's the one powerless to stop something that's already been set in motion.

Cranston is such an ace performer that most of us probably wouldn't notice if he were phoning it in, but there's a certain sameness to his portrayal of Mazur that leaves you wondering what the movie might have been had he modulated it more. If he's looking for his signature film role, he'll have to go deeper undercover to find it. **EF**



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- 7/24.....Ne Obliviscaris w/ BLACK CROWN INITIATE, & STARKILL  
7/27.....Oh, Sleeper w/ THE ONGOING CONCEPT  
8/2.....The Summer Slaughter Tour 2016 feat. CANNIBAL CORPSE  
8/4.....Heavy Thursday Twin Cities Chopper Night feat. LIVE MUSIC AND RAFFLE  
8/10.....Flogging Molly w/ FRANK TURNER Cabooze Plaza Show  
8/20.....CHIVE NATION PRESENTS Midwest Madness 2  
8/25.....Slightly Stoopid Return of the Red Eye Summer 16 w/ SOJA, & UNFORTUNATE YOUTH  
8/26.....Ax Fitness Benefit Concert! feat. WELL-KNOWN STRANGERS, & MORE!  
9/1-9/4.....MidWest Live & Loud Punk Rock Fest  
9/10.....Prof Outdoors 3 w/ HOPSIN, GRIEVES, & MORE! Cabooze Plaza Show  
9/16.....SMA Present Roger Clyne & The Peacemakers  
9/17.....Robert Randolph & The Family Band w/ FROGLEG  
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# 'PINOCCHIO' AGAIN?

CTC's rousing retelling finds plenty to explore in this popular tale



DAN NORMAN

BY JAY GABLER

For a dark, moralistic 19th-century novel about a miserable little boy made of wood, *Pinocchio* remains a popular play. Part of the reason is that it's always easier to sell tickets to an established property (especially one blessed by Disney), and part of the reason is the rich theatrical possibilities of Carlo Collodi's episodic plot: the talking cricket, the donkey transformation, the escape from being swallowed at sea. Sorry, was that a spoiler?

The Children's Theatre Company didn't wait too long to remount its 2013 production of *Pinocchio*, and no wonder: The show is CTC at its best. Adapting and directing, Greg Banks has devised a meta-theatrical conceit that, rather than confusing kids, actually helps young viewers understand and process the strange story.

In Banks' *Pinocchio*, the tale is told by five painters whom the audience "surprise" in the middle of their work. Seeming to improvise everything from the story to the props, the painters give us a rousing, heartwarming time at the theater.

The production's warm, family-friendly tone centers on the always excellent Elise Langer, who makes Pinocchio exuberant and relatable. The other characters are played by Joy Dolo and CTC staples Dean Holt and Reed Sigmund, all compulsively watchable as they flow among roles. Victor Zupanc performs a live score on instruments

## PINOCCHIO

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including guitar, accordion, and saw.

The storytelling is so lucid that even when Dolo and Sigmund are playing painters playing animals playing robbers, we totally understand what's going on. (I can't entirely speak for the youngest attendees on this one, but they all seemed into it.)

Aside from the fine cast and strong narrative, a source of constant enjoyment in this *Pinocchio* is the set by Joseph Stanley. What looks like a random mess made by a painting crew in the middle of a job turns out to be an intricately planned funhouse of tools the cast use to tell their tale. A paint cabinet becomes a jail, a fairy flies from the scaffolding, and a shopping cart becomes a donkey wagon.

The play's format allows the actors to comment on the unfolding action — not in a snarky way, but in a way that helps kids understand how theater can affect their emotions. When the show gets a little scary, the actors debate whether they should stop; when it gets sad, Dolo takes a time-out to cry, and no one shames her for it.

When all is said and done, the cast take a quick, almost embarrassed bow and then lope offstage in their paint-stained overalls. Just another day of work for these total pros. **CP**

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# ALL BROKEN UP

Exploring how Twin Cities bands rise from the ashes of breakups

JERARD FAGERBERG

It's been two months, but it still stings.

When Frankie Teardrop called it quits back in May, it was a dagger to local morale. The lo-fi shitgazers greased their way into the hearts of the Twin Cities in the too-short three years they were on the scene. It really felt like the trio's next album could've been the one that graduated them from the garage. But when *Hell Yep* did drop, it ended up being their swan song.

"A lot of people compare breaking up with a band to ending a relationship, and it's trite, but it felt like that," says Teardrop frontman Jordan Bleu. "We all put so much work into it and it made us happy for a long time, but it's important to be able to recognize when that isn't happening anymore."

Bleu is right. It's cliché as fuck to compare your bandmates to your ex-lovers, but we're heart-bearing humans, and that's the emotional capacity with which we're programmed. This is where a little institutional memory helps salve the heartache. Frankie Teardrop are far from the first local up-and-comers to uncouple in their prime, and Bleu has no illusions about that.

"On one hand it's like, 'Hey who cares, there goes another dude guitar band,'" he says. "So many people were so good to us. Local popularity is a strange thing."

It is indeed — but it's also enduring. We asked some of the most notable bands of the last five years who called it quits exactly what it feels like to pick up and start all over again.



Things used to be all smiles for Jordan Bleu and Frankie Teardrop.

NIYA DELA PEÑA

## Stereo Confession

Local rock 'n' roll wunderkind Max Timander really came of age as part of Stereo Confession, the surfy slack-rock band he formed alongside Jordan Blevins and Corey Hagen in 2011. The founding members were 14 when they first kicked onto the scene, but they didn't really break out until 2014's *Video Games*, a release that earned them fifth in that year's Picked to Click poll. Over the next two years, they'd open for the Vaccines, Bully, and Parquet Courts and play the Basilica Block Party.

But as the band matured together, they also grew apart. The lineup waffled throughout their four-year tenure, flexing to include Alex Lothrop, Theo Pupillo, and Noah Swanson at various intervals. By August 2015, it started "turning into more work than play," as Timander told 89.3 the Current, so the five decided to go

their separate ways. The band didn't even survive through high school graduation.

Only Lothrop and Timander have resurfaced. The two joined with Bruise Violet's Danielle Cusack to put together another P2C finalist in Cherry Cola, though that band is now on hiatus after some personal fallout. Nearly all traces of Stereo Confession's rabid angst have evaporated from the Twin Cities airwaves, making this the biggest sob story of the bunch.

"Fuck dude, it's hard," Timander says. "It was liberating but also hard because I didn't want to make the same mistakes as before, but I ended up making them again. In a more finalizing life lesson."

## Prissy Clerks

Like Howler (whatever happened to Howler?), Prissy Clerks was born from the ashes of underage indie-poppers Total Babe.

Fronted by local auteur Clara Salyer, the band won a slew of awards for their snotty, unshackled punk. They were the 2013 Are You Local? champs, and they won City Pages' Best Rock Band prize that same year. They released only one record, 2012's *Bruise or Be Bruised*, before guitarist Dylan Ritchie left to pursue other projects. Fittingly, even their disbanding was awarded — CP named Prissy Clerks the Best Band to Break Up in the Last 12 Months.

As with Total Babe before, the loss was tough to swallow, but it ultimately bore fruit. Salyer and Howard Hamilton doubled down on the heavy licks to found Whatevs Forever. Drummer Tim Leick brought his toms over to Heaven on Howitzers, who just released an epic double single in February. Emily Lazear is just getting

her new outfit, Wowsville, off the ground. In addition to Whatevs Forevs, Salyer has continued on her skyward trajectory. She replaced Maureen Herman in the reunited Babes in Toyland last August and has been gigging with the '90s icons ever since.

"When one band falls apart, you have to take what you've learned and try to apply it to the next project," Hamilton says. "When labels break promises, members can't see eye to eye anymore, or it's just no longer fun, it's time to save everyone's sanity and start a fresh new group."

## Zoo Animal

Six years is a long time to endear yourself to a scene. Zoo Animal dropped seven releases, including 2012 namemaker *Departure*, in their still-too-short tenure. Their 2009 debut earned them second in Picked to Click and the favor of Low's Alan Sparhawk,



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## MUSIC

who worked with a retooled Zoo Animal lineup to record a trio of hopeful songs that unfortunately never made it to a proper LP.

Zoo Animal were an anomaly in more than just their honest-to-God Christian roots and sparse arrangements — they were able to maintain a consistent level of freshness while the scene around them warped and progressed. But, ultimately, it wasn't enough to satisfy the creative energies of singer Holly Hansen, who shut Zoo Animal down in December 2015, acting on what she called “a gut feeling.”

More likely than not, she was sick of being labeled “that local Christian rock band,” and Zoo Animal was too entrenched in the hearts and minds of listeners to ever allow a wholesale redefinition. So, she called it off. According to a recent interview with Go 96.3 FM, Hansen's been “dabbling in electronic music again,” though we haven't heard so much as an MP3 from her since December. Erstwhile guitarist Matt Latterell has gone on to a fruitful solo career, dropping one of the best local cuts of 2015 with *Phase & Field*.

“I exhausted myself with Zoo Animal,” Hansen says. “I played one show this year, and that's all I plan to. I needed this long to remember the magic of music and songwriting.”

### Sleeping in the Aviary

The Twin Cities were lucky to adopt oddball

Wisconsin punk band Sleeping in the Aviary in 2008. It was here that the group took on accordion and musical saw player Celeste Heule and began making the most intriguing music of their career, leading to their fuzzy opus *You and Me, Ghost* in 2011. Underheralded in their time, Sleeping in the Aviary are now seen as one of the most innovative groups to lug their gear through the Hexagon, though that recognition is sadly too little too late.

But locals scored a second chance to applaud the weirdness since Elliott Kozel put the kibosh on SitA in 2012. He's reinvented himself as the massively popular sensual misfit Tickle Torture — a salacious electronica alter ego that began emerging in SitA's final days. Bandmate Kyle Sobczak has also lost himself in a wave of glitter and repose, committing himself to Rupert Angeleyes. Bassist Phil Mahlstadt and Heule pooled their talents to create gloomy alt-rock band Battlerat, and Michael Sienkowski can still be seen performing around town, most recently with Dream on Nilsson.

“It's like breaking up with five girlfriends at the same time,” Kozel says. “It's like changing elementary schools and your new first-grade art teacher gives everyone in the class an ‘S’ for satisfactory for making a mediocre potato stamp painting, just like at your old school. It's like growing a beard for five years and shaving it off.”

stars the Butanes. Saturday's headliner is iconic Hammond B3 master Booker T. Jones, erstwhile leader of the seminal Stax house band Booker T. & the MGs. *Free. 4:30 p.m. Friday. Noon Saturday. 221 Fifth St. E., St. Paul.* —RICK MASON

### DURAN DURAN

XCEL ENERGY CENTER, SATURDAY 7.23 Still featuring their heyday lineup after 30-plus years in the game, Duran Duran have proven resilient since helping shape the new-wave and synth-pop genres in the '80s. The U.K. legends aren't interested in going on nostalgia-driven cruise control, either. Last year saw Simon Le Bon, Nick Rhodes, John Taylor, and Roger Taylor release *Paper Gods*, the 14th full-length release from Duran Duran. The New Romantic scenesters have aged well, as the new album — which features guest spots from John Frusciante, Janelle Monáe, Lindsay Lohan (!) — earned warm praise from critics. The Duranies packing Xcel Energy Center will, of course, go wild for the band's early MTV megahits, including “Girls on Film,” “Hungry Like the Wolf,” and “The Reflex.” Nile Rodgers' band Chic opens. \$29.50-\$134.95. 6 p.m. 175 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul; 651-726-8240. —JAY BOLLER

## CRITICS' PICKS

### LOWERTOWN BLUES & FUNK FEST

MEARS PARK, FRIDAY 7.22 AND SATURDAY 7.23

The third incarnation of the Lowertown Blues Festival added a funky Friday this year, promising an evening of classic R&B, funk, and soul hits from Otis Day and the Knights, the Family Stone, and horn-heavy locals the Good, the Bad and the Funky. Day, a.k.a. DeWayne Jessie, led the pivotal band in the classic film *Animal House* and continues to this day by popular demand. The Family Stone are the still-potent remnants of Sly Stewart's groundbreaking funk/rock/soul band, featuring original drummer Greg Errico and saxophonist Jerry Martini, along with Phunne “Raw Syl” Stone, daughter of Sly and original trumpeter/vocalist Cynthia Robinson. Saturday's lineup includes a trio of notable blues guitarists: Lil' Ed, the diminutive ace who carves out a big sound with his Blues Imperials; Bernard Allison, following in the large Chicago footsteps of his illustrious father Luther; and Corey Stevens, who integrates a strong rock component. Also up is guitarist Kim Simmonds of the veteran English blues-rock band Savoy Brown and local, New Orleans-tinged all-

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Dr. Dog have a way with simplistic but effective pop rock that evokes the Beach Boys, the Band, and the Grateful Dead. But over the course of 15 years and numerous lineup changes, they've also blown out that sound into layered, modernized psychedelia. They've maintained a core fanbase throughout their prolific 2010s, but their turn-of-the-millennium beginnings were humble DIY years. In this decade alone, the Philadelphia-based six-piece has released four studio albums and one live LP, last year's *Live at a Flamingo Hotel*. Dr. Dog's latest, this year's *The Psychedelic Swamp*, was curiously conceived: It's a reworking of their cassette-only 2001 debut album. Though it's conceptual and jam-heavy on the whole, individual moments still stand out, including the honeyed harmonies of "Dead Record Player" and the yearning of "Bring My Baby Back." The band should shine outdoors for the second major concert at Surly HQ. With Shakey Graves. 18+. 6 p.m. \$30. 520 Malcolm Ave. SE, Minneapolis; 763-999-4040. —MICHAEL MADDEN

## DRAKE AND FUTURE

XCEL ENERGY CENTER, SUNDAY 7.24

Drake may have started from the bottom (not really), but he's reached the pinnacle of the Twin Cities concert scene — really! The Canadian-born rap superstar is joining fellow rap hitmaker Future for the 59-date Summer Sixteen Tour, which kicked off Wednesday. Drake — who scored massive 2015 hits with "Hotline Bling" and "Jumpman" (feat. Future) — will be touring in support of his fourth full-length, April's *Views*. Future — who also appeared at Soundset Festival in May — will be supporting *EVOL*, his fourth album, which arrived in February. The chart-dominating buddies each snatched the No. 1 Billboard spot with their new releases. Drake headlined Xcel back in 2013, a show our reviewer described as visually stunning, occasionally corny, and always strikingly earnest. Future opened that gig. Roy Woods, DVSN, and "special guests" are slated to open the current tour. \$49.50-\$129.50. 7 p.m. 175 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul; 651-726-8240. —JAY BOLLER

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thu : july 21  
9:30pm : midwest paul cook

fri : july 22  
7pm : laura and sean's movie and music trivia  
10pm : ross kleiner & the thrill

sat : july 23  
the dirty side down motorcycle show off

inside :  
10:30pm : javier & the innocent sons

outside :  
9:30pm : gar  
8:30pm : they live  
7:30pm : the wolf council  
6:30pm : death of a ladies' man  
5:30pm : crash cuddle  
5:00pm : awards  
4:00pm : solidstate  
3:00pm : dead bundy and the neat neat neats  
1:00pm : javier matos

sun : july 24  
8pm : trivia mafia

mon : july 25  
8pm : the roe family singers  
10pm : doug otto and friends

tue : july 26  
7-9pm : 331 blingo free blingo! win awesome prizes!  
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SAVAGE LOVE

## Sibling Swap

I think my sister's husband wants to suck my dick



Dan Savage

*I'm sorry if my English is wrong. I'm writing from Germany, where I am being heartbroken and not knowing how to go on. I've been seeing a guy for a couple of months and slowly falling in love with him. "Peter" has always been very open to me about himself, his failed relationships, and his commitment issues. He talks frequently about his ex-boyfriend from five years ago and how being left created a deep fear of being left once again. He also had a relationship that ended a year ago. Yesterday he told me he's still in love with the guy from one year ago but that his love is unrequited. He also told me that he values what we have but he can't stop loving this other guy. And he can't promise me that this will change. I am in love and heartbroken at the same time, hopeful and fearful, and unable to get up for the last couple of days. I'm falling for someone who's not able to love me back, who's stuck in the past, but who wishes to change that in order to let me into his life. Should I stay and wait even if it hurts to know he's in love with someone other than me? Or should I leave him as so many others have and hurt him?*

HEALING EROTIC LOVE PROBLEM  
MEANS EVERYTHING

**Peter** could be lying to you.

That's probably not what you wanted or expected to hear, HELPMEME, but you have to entertain the possibility.

When someone tells us they have "commitment issues," we're primed to hear this: "This boy is incapable of committing until healed (by a therapist, by a new love, by the passage of time)." But sometimes what they mean is this: "I have no interest in committing — not to you, not to anyone, not now, not ever." But instead of owning up to that (because people who want to remain single are viewed as damaged?) or telling you he's not seeking anything serious (because you might leave him, and he's not done with your ass?), Peter invents/inflates a pair of past loves that render him incapable of loving you the way you deserve to be

loved and blah blah blah and off the hook. Not a child-man who won't commit, but a victim who would commit if he could commit but — sob! — he can't commit.

But, hey, maybe he's telling you the truth. Maybe he's in love with Mr. One Year Ago. So tell him he can love you and love the other guy at the same time. Established gay throuples, stable straight poly quads, bi men with GFs and BF's — there are examples everywhere you look these days of people in love with more than one romantic partner. Think of it as a sort of semi-posthumous/semi-poly relationship. You'll be pioneers.

Give Peter permission to love his ex (pathetically and abstractly) while loving you too (intimately and tactilely), HELPMEME, and you might be able to love a commitment out of him.

*I'm a gay male in my late 20s. My little sister's husband, "Peter," is my age and bisexual. I'm not one of those gay men who think bi guys don't exist and I don't have a problem with my bi brother-in-law being bi. More importantly, my sister doesn't have a problem with it. But whenever I'm alone with Peter, however briefly, he starts telling me how much he misses dick. He wants to hear about the last "really great dick" I sucked and tells me he misses sucking dick. I smile and say dick is great for sure and make a halfhearted attempt to change the subject. I'm pretty sure Peter wants to suck my dick, and I'm tempted to let him. I know it's a bad idea, but Peter is hot. This is torture. What should I do?*

BOY IS LOST

**Stop smiling**, work harder to change the subject, avoid being alone in a room with Peter, and repeat after me: "My sister might be able to forgive her husband for sucking a dick, but she'll never forgive him — or me — if that dick is mine."

mail@savagelove.net

Follow Dan on Twitter: @fakedansavage  
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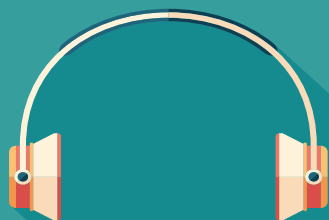
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